



Fonds au Profit des Victimes
The Trust Fund for Victims



Report of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims

Twelfth Session of the Assembly of States Parties
The Hague, 20-28 November 2013

Madam President,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour and pleasure to address you for the first time on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims as a new Chair. As you will recall, last year's Assembly elected the five members of a new Board. Collectively, this Board represents continuity, renewal, diversity, and above all a strong commitment to further develop the TFV into an effective and efficient institution that is able to provide a meaningful response to the harm suffered by the victims, their families and their communities.

The past year has seen the TFV further consolidating its operations in the field, expanding the number of beneficiaries under the assistance mandate from over 80,000 to over 110,000. Most of the TFV's projects

have incorporated both gender and child-specific interventions to support the special vulnerability of women and children.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the TFV continues to pay special attention to victims of sexual and gender based violence, providing an integrated, harm-based assistance to over 5,000 victims that includes access to health services, vocational training and micro-loans. Also in the DRC, the TFV is supporting large scale, community based initiatives that address the root causes of the conflict and promote a culture of peace and reconciliation.

In northern Uganda, the TFV has moved away from providing material support to victims, as the causal link with harm suffered during the conflict years has become more tenuous to assert. In contrast, the physical and psychological effects of violence on victims have longer term implications, which is the reason why the TFV is focusing its efforts on addressing these types of harm.

For further details of the ongoing assistance, please refer to our latest Programme Progress Report of Summer 2013, entitled "Changing Lives: Overcoming Stigma, Vulnerability and Discrimination" and the one in Winter 2012 entitled "Mobilising Resources and Supporting the Most Vulnerable Victims through Earmarked Funding".

In the Central African Republic, the deteriorating security situation has forced the TFV earlier this year to suspend its programme - just at the moment it was to start. The TFV is maintaining the resources set aside for this programme and continues to monitor the situation, in close consultation with the Court, and ready to intervene when circumstances will allow.

This September, I was privileged to participate in a first visit to the TFV's programmes in northern Uganda and eastern DRC, jointly with President Intelmann. This was an excellent opportunity to hear first-hand from the TFV's beneficiaries about their needs and appreciation of the services rendered to them by our locally based implementing partners. We also had the opportunity to meet with key officials of the Government of Uganda, including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Justice. My meeting with the Ugandan Minister of Health in Tokyo confirmed the joint interest of the Government and the TFV to further intensify our collaboration in developing a sustainable, long term solution to the physical and psychological harm suffered by victims in northern Uganda.

President Intelmann and I came away from our field visit with the impression that the TFV is making the right choices in providing an adequate reparative response to victims' harm. I am happy to note that this impression is echoed in the first-ever external evaluation of the TFV's programmes that has been carried out over the past year. The

findings of this evaluation indicate that the TFV's support under its assistance mandate has fostered change at the individual and community levels and has proved to be an invaluable source of physical, psychological, and material rehabilitation. On behalf of the Board, I wish to acknowledge here the pioneering efforts in achieving these results of the TFV's Secretariat, field staff and its network of partners.

The evaluation's recommendations match the TFV's determination to be a learning organization, and should be of great help to further develop our strategy and actions. The full report of the evaluators will be launched at the TFV's side event, on coming Friday immediately after the Sixth Plenary discussion on victims.

The reparations mandate still remains unprecedented territory for the TFV. Upon invitation of the Appeals Chamber, the TFV submitted observations on the appeals in the Lubanga case against the decision of Trial Chamber I on principles and procedure of reparations awards. While the matter remains in the hands of the Appeals Chamber, the TFV is preparing for the challenging task it may be entrusted with.

The Board firmly believes that the TFV's five years' experience of implementing the assistance mandate provides a solid basis to engage on the reparations mandate. We also believe that the TFV, both in its Secretariat and field staff levels, will need the allocation by States Parties of additional resources, if it is to respond to victims' right to reparations

effectively and efficiently. However, the Board has not requested it this year in light of the pending appeal decision on reparations principles, which will further clarify the role and responsibilities of the TFV.

The Board strongly appreciates that the TFV's operations very much depend on the financial and administrative services provided by the Registry and wishes to acknowledge the indispensable support of colleagues in Registry's various sections. The Board furthermore continues to rely on the advice of the Registrar and is fully confident that cordial and constructive relations will be maintained with the newly appointed Registrar.

The TFV's resources are improving yet continue to be a matter of concern. The Board is extremely grateful for the voluntary contributions made by States Parties, which is so far the main source of support to enable the TFV's assistance mandate activities and to build up its reparations reserve. In the past year, new donors have come on board. Existing donors have managed to continue and even deepen their engagement with the TFV; and in some cases, such as Finland and Sweden, find a way to formalize their longer term support to the TFV through multi-annual agreements.

These are encouraging developments – but to face the challenges of the future, more resources will surely be needed. I would like to recall the letters that the Board members sent to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of

all States Parties, in September this year, calling to broaden their support to the TFV. Even a modest contribution to the TFV will demonstrate a States Party's commitment to the cause of reparative justice that is one of the essential values enshrined in the Rome Statute.

The TFV's ability to receive earmarked contributions has proven to be a successful vehicle for fundraising, as well as for raising the international public profile of the TFV. For example, contributions earmarked to assist victims of sexual and gender based violence have enabled the TFV to respond specifically to the harm they suffered. This is increasingly finding resonance in the international arena. The United Kingdom's Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative or PSVI, launched last year, has not only supported the TFV with a substantial donation of half a million pounds, but also resulted in the featuring of the TFV as a highly relevant international reparatory agency in the G8 Ministers' Declaration issued in London in March this year. Subsequently, a call to support the TFV was included in the UN Security Council Resolution 2106 of June 2013 on Women, Peace and Security.

At the same time, the TFV is seeking to diversify its revenue base to include more private donors. In March 2013, we received a first substantial private donation from the Ferencz family's Planethood Foundation. The TFV also signed a partnership agreement with the Bizzy Bees Foundation, a Dutch initiative. The TFV is exploring ways to

raise more funds from private institutional donors in the US and European markets.

Madam President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The States Parties remain the primary stakeholders in the TFV's endeavors to ensure reparative justice for victims. The Board greatly appreciates the revival of the Friends of the TFV group in The Hague, which should allow for a fruitful regular and informal exchange on the TFV's challenges, needs and achievements, and expresses the hope that this group will attract the interest of representatives of States Parties and civil society organisations alike.

The Trust Fund for Victims is already demonstrating that it is capable of providing meaningful redress for the most vulnerable victims. Your moral, political and financial support will determine whether this will be a sustainable and meaningful undertaking that can be taken into other situations and into the new area of Court-ordered reparations. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I request your continuous support for the TFV's unprecedented endeavors.

Thank you.

Motoo Noguchi

Chair of the Board of Directors, The Trust Fund for Victims

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